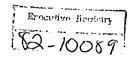
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27 August 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

I made a date to see Leo Cherne at 5:30 on Monday. He wants to talk about the PFIAB proposal that needs some independent evaluation on the status and the state of the Soviet economy. I would like to have your ideas on what we ought to do about this. Cherne's idea is not to make a competitive analysis type thing but to gather the views from a number of established scholars. Another idea is to get the Council on Economic Policy or the Commerce Department or a team of scholars established for the purpose to get a critique or evaluation and make an independent evaluation. first thing that anyone can be expected to know and with what degree of certainty on the state of the Soviet economy and what value it has to us is to make a stab at assessing something we're not going to know in any event with any precision. My own view is that it is sufficient for our policy purposes to know that they are encountering growing problems on the economic front. It would be valuable to have a good fix on their capacity to cope with them over some span into the future.

William J. Casey

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